

BEE GEES TOUR BATTLE!



The Bee Gees rehearsing for "the battle".

THE Bee Gees/Dave Dee tour, currently zooming around Britain, has developed into a king-sized battle between the two groups to capture you, the audience.

Round One took place at The Royal Albert Hall, where competition was so keen that the two groups enrolled the Army and the R.A.F. to back their efforts!

Dave Dee, Dozy, Beaky, Mick and Tich produced an Army detachment who marched on stage and "shot" the audience. The Bee Gees, not to be outdone, presented an R.A.F. band in full regalia!

The concert was opened by Grapefruit, who were introduced segment by segment by compere Tony Hall. They didn't seem too over-awed to be making their concert debut at The Royal Albert Hall, and seemed quite at ease with the audience.

A promising debut from Grapefruit, who worked hard and tried for unusual sounds—George played flute at one point—but why did they open with their hit *Dear Delilah*?

The Foundations claimed they were just a warm-up for Dave Dee, and warmed up the old RAH with a searing soul scene via their hits *Baby*, *Now That I've Found You* and *Back On My Feet Again*... helped on by two girl dancers who sent the temperature soaring!

The first half was closed by Dave Dee, Dozy, Beaky, Mick and Tich, who were thoroughly professional from the first note. The act began with high drama as the group appeared in black cloaks and *Xanadu*-type hats playing a lively instrumental. At the end of the number, the cloaks were thrown to the winds and the hats to the screaming audience.

This showmanship was topped by a hilarious comedy routine as Dozy leaped into Dave's arms for a send-up of *Cinderella-Rockefeller* and *Rosie* (which was translated to Dozy for the occasion!).

Perfectly reproducing their record sound, Dave Dee, Dozy, Beaky, Mick and Tich fired off some of their hits including *Zabadak* and *Xanadu*. At one point Dave sat on the front of the stage to sing *If I Were A Car-*

penter, and the group gave a thundering version of *Paint It Black*.

The highlight of the act was *Bend It*, during the course of which Dave was pulled off the stage, Beaky and his equipment parted company, and that Army unit made their appearance.

The second half was given over entirely to The Bee Gees, whose manager Robert Stigwood presented the show. A full symphony orchestra gave the group an overlong introduction, and they opened the proceedings to riotous applause with *New York Mining Disaster*.

Barry looked sensational in an electric blue satin shirt and trousers; Maurice wore a waistcoat and pants in turquoise velvet with a white frilled shirt; Robin went for a red jacket in Regency-style; and Vince and Colin wore sober colours.

The screams seemed to be directed mainly at Barry, who took the vocal lead on some of the songs—including *World and Words*—which Robin usually sings. Robin was fully employed with announcements and avoiding being dragged off-stage.

Robin introduced a new song "which we haven't recorded" called *I'm Going To Join The R.A.F.*, and everyone was momentarily stunned into silence by the appearance of a fully-uniformed R.A.F. band, who played with great gusto in the middle of the auditorium.

After neatly side-stepping the outstretched hands, Robin was so distracted by the band that he forgot about the fans and found himself underneath a score of screaming girls. When he was helped back on stage, Barry found himself under fire. Eventually, they all stood like statues as the band played on, though Maurice couldn't resist surreptitious peeps at this phenomenon.

We had no sooner seen the last of the band when a celestial choir, complete with stereophonic sound, appeared, and duetted operatically with the orchestra for a number.

On this first night's showing, it seemed that Dave Dee, Dozy, Beaky, Mick and Tich were ahead on points for entertainment value. But The Bee Gees were miles ahead on gimmicks!

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